



House Bill No. 5138

Public Act No. 09-5

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF UNITED STATES
FLAGS ON THE GRAVES OF VETERANS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 19a-297 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

The selectmen of towns, cemetery associations or ecclesiastical societies, having the care of cemeteries, may (1) enact bylaws providing for the care and management of all burial lots, and the protection of all shrubs, trees, fences and monuments thereon, provided no such bylaws shall (A) require or result in the removal or banishing of any undamaged United States flag or armed forces service marker, including flagholders provided by veterans organizations, from any grave site, or (B) restrict the placement of United States flags on the graves of veterans from the Saturday before Memorial Day in each year until the Monday after the fourth of July, and [may] (2) appoint superintendents and sextons for such cemeteries. [who] Such superintendents and sextons shall have the exclusive right to direct the opening of graves, and no grave shall be opened in any cemetery except with the consent of the superintendent or sexton. Any person to whom such bylaws have been made known who violates the same shall be fined not more than ten dollars. The

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incorporators, organizers or members of any cemetery association or, if no incorporators, organizers or members are living, the owners of burial lots therein, by a majority vote, may, at any meeting called for that purpose, amend its articles of association or its bylaws.

Approved May 4, 2009